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Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that you circulate as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, the text of the decisions adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventieth ordinary session, held at Algiers, from 8 to 10 July 1999, and the declarations and decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, also held at Algiers, from 12 to 14 July 1999 (see annexes).*

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Annexes are available only in the languages in which they were submitted (Arabic, English and French).

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Annex I

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Decisions and regulations adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventieth ordinary session and fifth ordinary session of the African Economic Community

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CM/Dec.450 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Conflict Situation in Angola – (Doc.CM/2099 (LXX)-a**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;

2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the efforts deployed by the Government of Angola aimed at the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and **EXPRESSES** the view that Mr. Jonas Savimbi excluded himself from the on-going democratic process in Angola by deliberately violating the Lusaka Protocol and the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and by ignoring the various appeals by the International Community;

3. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** Mr. Jonas Savimbi and his UNITA group for unleashing indiscriminate military action against the civilian population; and for the killings, maimings and displacement of innocent women and children, the abduction of foreigners, the destruction of civilian aircrafts including the United Nations aircrafts, and for other crimes;

4. **REAFFIRMS** the unwavering support of the OAU for the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and those of SADC, especially the resolution passed in Mauritius which considers Jonas Savimbi as a war criminal;

5. **APPEALS** to all Member States to strenuously work for the implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions especially those relating to sanctions against UNITA;

6. **FURTHER APPEALS** to all Member States to intensify the campaign for the total isolation of Mr. Savimbi and his group as called for by the UN Security Council, the OAU Central Organ and SADC Summit;

7. **HAILS** the on-going efforts facilitated by the Kingdom of Swaziland on his capacity of Chairman of the SADC Inter-State Committee on Peace and Security aimed at improving relations between Angola and Zambia, especially as such rapprochement is crucial for the peace, security and stability of the region and for the long-term development of Angola;

8. **URGES** the Organisation to play a more active role in the search for a solution to the Angolan crisis. In this respect, the mechanism involving Presidents Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Mascares has of Cape Verde and the OAU Secretary-General, either in its present or expanded form, to be reactivated to ensure that the OAU is at the forefront of efforts to mobilise support for ending the Angolan conflict;

9. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to all Member States, especially those with the ability to do so, and the entire International Community to extend as a matter of utmost urgency the necessary assistance to those in need, and to support the efforts of the Government of Angola to cope with the humanitarian tragedy in that country.

CM/Draft/Dec.451 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict Situation in Burundi – (Doc.CM/2099 (LXX)-b**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;

2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the progress made in the peace process both internally and within the framework of the Arusha global negotiations under the auspices of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere;

3. **URGES** all the Parties to the negotiations to persevere in their efforts so as to arrive at a solution to the crisis, and achieve national peace and reconciliation;

4. **FURTHER EXPRESSES CONCERN** at the persistence of violence and, in that regard, appealed to the armed groups to comply with the

declaration on the cessation of hostilities and accept to join in the Arusha negotiations;

5. **COMMENDS** the States of the region for the important role they played in reactivating the peace process;

6. **PARTICULARLY COMMENDS** the Facilitator Mwalimu Julius Nyerere for his untiring efforts to help the people of Burundi to find a negotiated solution to their conflict;

7. **APPEALS** to the International Community to assist Burundi in its economic recovery and reconstruction programmes.

CM/Dec.452 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Conflict Situation in the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros (Doc. CM/2099 (LXX) –c**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER** the continued crisis in the Comoros and all its attendant consequences for the Archipelago and the countries of the region;

4. **CONDEMNS IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS** the coup d'Etat of 30 April 1999, which seriously undermined the implementation of the Antananarivo Agreement of 23 April 1999, and **DEMANDS** the immediate restoration of the constitutional order;

5. **EXPRESSES ITS FULL SUPPORT** for the Antananarivo Agreement which constitutes a viable basis for a lasting solution to the crisis within the framework of the principle of the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros, and the legitimate aspirations of the islands and their inhabitants. In that regard, Council **STRONGLY**

AFFIRMS that the Agreement which was the product of serious negotiations cannot be amended unilaterally;

6. **FURTHER EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN** over the delay by the Anjouanese Party in signing the Antananarivo Agreement, which constitutes a violation of the commitment it made in Antananarivo;

7. **URGES** the Anjouanese Party to sign the Agreement without any delay and to strictly comply with its letter and spirit;

8. **REQUESTS** the countries of the region and the OAU Troika to immediately dispatch a high level delegation to initiate dialogue with the Authorities and all the Parties concerned, including the Anjouanese Party, with a view to attaining as early as possible the objectives set by the OAU;

9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the countries of the region to submit to the Secretary-General the mission report of their delegation for consideration by the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, which will take the necessary appropriate measures bearing in mind the evolution of the situation in the Comoros.

CM/Dec.453 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Guinea-Bissau (Doc. CM/2099 (LXX) (e)**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the assumption of duty of Mr. Samuel Nana-Sinkam as Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Guinea Bissau;

3. **CALLS ON** the OAU Secretary-General to initiate consultation with the United Nations Secretary-General with a view to embarking on Joint action aimed at the consolidation of peace and national reconciliation in Guinea Bissau;

4. **PAYS GLOWING TRIBUTE** to Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as well as to the Portuguese – speaking countries for the laudable efforts they have invested in the search for lasting peace and national reconciliation in Guinea – Bissau;

5. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the active solidarity demonstrated by the international community vis-à-vis the people of Guinea-Bissau at the Emergency Round Table organised in Geneva on 4-5 May, 1999 under UNDP auspices;

6. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the efforts embodied in the Abuja and Lome Accords aimed at the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Guinea Bissau and COMMENDS, in particular, the efforts deployed by the current ECOWAS Chairman, His Excellency President Gnassingbe Eyadema of the Republic of Togo;

7. **APPEALS** to the International Community to provide Guinea Bissau with financial, technical and material assistance to enable it to hold the planned elections as scheduled, and to embark, without delay, on national reconstruction in accordance with commitments embodied in the Geneva Emergency Round Table.

CM/Dec.454 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Sierra Leone (Doc.CM/2099 (LXX) -f**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **WELCOMES** the signing of a Peace Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) to end the civil war in the country and **URGES** the two parties to scrupulously respect and implement the Agreement they have entered into;

3. **CONGRATULATES** the people and Government of Sierra Leone, as well as the Revolutionary United Front on their signing of the Peace Agreement on 7 July 1999, and **URGES** them to get down to a sincere

and honest implementation of the Agreement so as to consolidate peace in the country;

4. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** and **PAYS TRIBUTE** to all those who played a role in the peace process, particularly President Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo, Current Chairman of ECOWAS, assisted by in his efforts by President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso and OAU Current Chairman, Presidents Charles Taylor of Liberia and Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, as well as to all the partners involved in the peace process, particularly the United Nations and the Commonwealth;

5. **PAYS TRIBUTE** to ECOWAS countries, particularly Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea and Mali, which contributed troops to ECOMOG, for the sacrifices they made to ensure that peace and stability prevail in Sierra Leone;

6. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the efforts exerted by OAU in this matter and **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to continue to play a role in the process aimed at the consolidation of peace in the country;

7. **URGES** other countries which are members and non members of ECOWAS to send contingents to supplement the current ECOMOG component in order to consolidate confidence and create an enabling environment for implementation of the Peace Agreement;

8. **APPEALS** to the International Community to provide adequate logistics assistance to ECOMOG to enable it to pursue its deployment in Sierra Leone;

9. **FURTHER URGES** the International Community, humanitarian agencies and organisations, as well as other international donors to support the peace consolidation process in Sierra Leone;

10. **REQUESTS** the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, and the Secretary-General to back the efforts deployed by ECOWAS at regional level with every possible assistance, so as to ensure the restoration of peace in Sierra Leone, and to submit a report thereon to the next Council of Ministers.

CM/Dec.455 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary General on the Conflict Situation in Somalia (Doc.CM/2099 (LXX) -g**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **REAFFIRMS** the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Somalia as one and indivisible State;

3. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** at the slow pace of progress in the efforts aimed at promoting peace, stability and national reconciliation in Somalia;

4. **EMPHASIZES** that the primary responsibility of peace in Somalia rests squarely with the Somali people themselves and **CALLS UPON** all Somali faction leaders to close ranks and heed the regional and international efforts aiming at achieving peace and national reconciliation in Somalia;

5. **DEPLORES** the renewed fighting between rival factions in some parts of Somalia and the humanitarian consequences on the civil population;

6. **DEPLORES ALSO** the increased external interference and the reported flow of arms to Somalia in violation of the arms embargo imposed on Somalia by Resolution 733 (1992) of the UN Security Council and **STRONGLY APPEALS** to all concerned to strictly comply with the above mentioned resolution and to refrain from any action likely to lead to a deterioration of the situation in Somalia and further complicate the efforts aimed at promoting peace, stability and national reconciliation;

7. **CALLS UPON** all OAU Member States in a position to do so and the international community at large, to provide the required development assistance to the areas where peace and stability are prevailing, as part of the efforts aimed at rebuilding the State of Somalia;

8. **COMMENDS** the efforts deployed by the Standing Committee on Somalia to promote peace and national reconciliation in Somalia;

9. **GRAVELY CONCERNED** at the increasingly alarming humanitarian situation in Somalia and **APPEALS** to Member States and the international community to continue providing humanitarian assistance to the populations in need in Somalia;

10. **STRESSES** the need for a continued and close coordination in the efforts aimed at ending the conflict in Somalia and to this end underlines the role to be played by the OAU;

11. **RENEWS ITS REQUEST** to the Secretary-General to dispatch, as soon as possible, a fact-finding mission to Somalia, as envisaged by the relevant decision adopted by the Sixty-eight Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, with a view of assessing the situation on the ground, engaging the various parties concerned and considering what further contribution the OAU could make in the efforts aimed at ending the conflict in Somalia.

CM/Dec.456 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Activities of the International Panel of Eminent Personalities on the Genocide in Rwanda – (Doc.CM/2101 (LXX)**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **COMMENDS** the Chairman of the Panel Sir Ketmile Masire and other members of the Panel for the work done so far on this important issue;

3. **EXPRESS APPRECIATION** to countries and Organizations already visited for the cooperation extended to the Panel and for the facilities placed before it to facilitate its work;

4. **APPEALS** to the other OAU Member States and countries as well as Organizations to be visited by the Panel to extend similar cooperation

to the Panel and its Secretariat to facilitate the fulfilment of its mandate;

5. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to Ethiopia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Japan, Sweden and the USA for their contribution to the budget of the Panel and reiterates its **APPEAL** to all OAU Member States and donor countries to extend increased financial contribution to enable the Panel fulfil its important and historic mandate.

CM/Dec. 457 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in the Middle East (Doc.CM/2103 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;

2. **RECALLS** all the relevant resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers of the Organisation of African Unity on the Middle East situation which affirm that the Palestinian Question is the core of the Middle East conflict and that no comprehensive, just and lasting peace can be established unless Israel withdraws from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and South Lebanon, and unless the Palestinian people exercise their inalienable national rights in accordance with UN resolutions and particularly Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 465, 478, 425 and General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947, and on the basis of the land-for-peace formula;

3. **CALLS** for an initiative that will take all the necessary measures that will guarantee Israel's compliance with the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and the land-for-peace principle and its full implementation of all the agreements and commitments made by the two parties on all tracks of the peace process;

4. **AFFIRMS ITS PRINCIPLED SUPPORT** for the Palestinian question, condemns the intransigence of the Government of Israel in the peace talks and calls on Israel to immediately halt all actions that threaten the peace process;

5. **CALLS ON** the Government of Israel to take into consideration the Rome declaration which endorsed the Law of the International Criminal Court on 18 July 1998, and which is an important step in reinforcing the law and putting an end to the tragedies and crimes against humanity;

6. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** for the initiative proposed by H.E. President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt and H.E. President Jacques Chirac, of the Republic of France to convene an International Conference on the Middle East; in view of the present deadlock in the peace process;

7. **URGES** the United Nations and the International Community to guarantee Israel's full compliance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency that stipulate the use of Israel's nuclear installations for peaceful purposes and compel it to open its nuclear installations to international inspection. The Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency warned of the grave threats that may be posed by radiation leaks from the Daemona reactor, in the absence of international inspection;

8. **REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT** for the proposal made by H.E. President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt to declare the Middle East an area free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction;

9. **URGES** the Government of Israel to join the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty and to refrain from the manufacture, production, testing and possession of nuclear weapons and to place its nuclear installations under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

CM/Dec. 458 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Question of Palestine – (Doc.CM/2104 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;

2. **REAFFIRMS** the right of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to exercise their inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their country, recover their property, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy and reaffirm on their support to the struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve those rights;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN** at the deadlock in the peace process during the past three years and especially after the decision taken by the former Government of Israel to freeze its obligations contained in the Wye River Memorandum;

4. **CALLS UPON** the Government of Israel to immediately halt all its settlement activities and provocative measures in Jerusalem and all the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 in compliance with UNSC Resolution 465 and in conformity with the terms of agreements concluded between the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people and the Government of Israel;

5. **AFFIRMS** the right of the Palestinian people to declare their State on their land with East Jerusalem as its capital, as this is the central goal underlying the struggle of the Palestinian people and **AFFIRMS** their natural, political and moral right to self-determination on their national soil, particularly as the five years of the transitional period came to an end on 4 May, 1999 according to the Palestinian Israeli Accords;

6. **CALLS ON** Israel to immediately halt its confiscation of Palestinian territories and especially in Jerusalem and its suburbs and its expansion of settlements, which constitute violations of Resolutions 242, 338, 465, 478 adopted by the Security Council and threaten peace

process with collapse. It also affirms that Jerusalem which was occupied in 1967 is an indivisible part of the Palestinian territories that were occupied in 1967 and all that applies to the occupied territories applies to it, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions;

7. **CALLS UPON** States Parties to participate in the conference to implement the IV Geneva Convention on the occupied Palestinian territory including Jerusalem to be held on 15 July, 1999 in accordance with UNGA Resolution ES-10/6 of 9 February 1999;

8. **AFFIRMS** the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and recover their property in line with the fundamental principles of human rights and the resolutions of international legitimacy and particularly United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 and Security Council Resolution 237, since the right to return is one of the fundamental principles of a just and comprehensive peace in the region;

9. **FURTHER REAFFIRMS** that a guarantee of respect for agreements and other sources of international law is indispensable for the maintenance of international peace and security, **CALLS** for an accurate implementation of all peace agreements and **URGES** the parties sponsoring the peace process, the parties concerned and the entire international community to deploy all the required efforts to revive the peace process and ensure its success;

10. **HAILS** the call of the Palestinian National Authority to hold Bethlehem 2000 celebrations in honour of the anniversary of the Birth of Christ and **CALLS ON** all Member States to give these celebrations the attention they deserve, so as to ensure their success on the path to peace and hope in the Middle East, and **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** for the serious efforts and preparations made by the Palestinian National Authority to celebrate this important religious and historical occasion.

CM/Dec.459 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the OAU Commission on Refugees, on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa – (Doc.CM/2105 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the OAU Commission on Refugees, on the Situation of the Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa;

2. **EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN** over the persistence of the problem of refugees and displaced persons on the African Continent, and the growing deterioration of the humanitarian situation of these disadvantaged people;

3. **REQUESTS** Member States to resolutely address the root-causes of refugees and displaced persons;

4. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to Member States hosting refugees in a humanitarian spirit, as well as in the spirit of African solidarity and brotherhood;

5. **URGENTLY APPEALS** to Member States to sign and/or ratify the OAU Convention Government the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa if they have not yet done so;

6. **INVITES** Member States to take the necessary steps to implement the Declaration and Recommendations adopted by the OAU Ministerial Conference on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons held in Khartoum, the Sudan from 13 to 14 December 1998;

7. **APPEALS** to the International Community within the context of burden sharing to step up its material, financial and technical assistance to the countries affected by the problem of refugees and displaced persons;

8. **INVITES** the International Community to help the African countries affected by the presence of refugees in formulating and implementing programmes and projects intended to bring about a rapid transition towards rehabilitation and restructuring, as part of the process aimed at ensuring the resumption of development as early as possible;

9. **URGES** Member States as well as the International Community, in collaboration with the UNHCR to commemorate on 10 September, 1999, the Thirtieth Anniversary of the adoption of the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugees Problems in Africa;

10. **APPEALS** to the International Community to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to countries faced with the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons by contributing to emergency projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight;

11. **REQUESTS** Member States to take appropriate steps to reinforce security in refugee camps and ensure the protection of humanitarian workers, on the understanding that humanitarian organisations should respect the domestic legislations of the countries in which they operate.

CM/Dec.460 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the OAU Peace Fund-(Doc.CM/2106 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **COMMENDS** all Member States of the OAU for the political and financial support they continue to extend to the work of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution;

2. **PAYS SPECIAL TRIBUTE** to those Member States including Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Tunisia, that have made voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund;

3. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to all the countries and Organizations outside Africa that have made contributions to the Peace Fund;

4. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to continue examining ways and means of mobilizing additional resources for the Peace Fund, including from African Non-State actors.

CM/Dec.461(LXX) **Decision on the Progress Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Restructuring of the OAU General Secretariat – (Doc.CM/2107 (LXX) Rev.1))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Ninth Extraordinary Session of the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters held in Addis Ababa on 21 June, 1999 (Doc.CM/2107 (LXX) Annex) regarding the financing plan of the restructuring exercise;

3. **DECIDES** to defer the decision on the restructuring of the Scientific/Technical Offices for further in-depth consultations with Member States;

4. **NOTES** that the decision to open an OAU office in the Southern African Region has already been taken by the Sixty-ninth Ordinary Session of Council in March 1999;

5. **FURTHER NOTES** that the General Secretariat is working on the modalities for implementing the decision referred to in Paragraph 4 above and **REQUESTS** that the financial implications be submitted to the Sixty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Advisory Committee in November 1999 for consideration;

6. **REITERATES** that the Secretary-General is responsible for leading the transition period and implementing the decision on the restructuring exercise. However, the Secretary-General should regularly inform the Committee of 15 on Structural Reform of the decisions he takes. The Committee on its part can also request

information from the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Restructuring exercise.

7. **APPROVES** on an exceptional basis a one-year Transition Programme Budget for the Financial Year 2000/2001 instead of the usual two-year programme budget to enable the Secretariat to complete the restructuring exercise;

8. **URGES** Member States to pay up their contributions to enable the timely implementation of the restructuring exercise;

9. **AUTHORIZES** the Secretary-General to continue exploring possibilities of mobilizing extra-budgetary resources from potential donors;

10. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to keep Member States regularly informed through briefing sessions to the Ad-hoc Committee on Structural Reform on the progress made in the restructuring exercise.

CM/Dec.462(LXX) **Report of the Secretary-General on the Financial Situation of the Organization – (Doc. CM/2108 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;

2. **COMMENDS** those Member States which are up-to-date in paying up their annual assessed contributions to the OAU Regular Budget;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS SERIOUS CONCEERN** about the negative trend observed over the last two previous financial years whereby the amount of arrears continues to increase thus affecting negatively the financial situation of the Organization and its capacity to implement the approved programmes;

4. **APPEALS** to those countries in arrears to make diligent arrangements to settle their financial obligations to the Organization bearing in mind that the payment of the assessed contributions to the OAU Regular Budget is not an option but rather an obligation on each Member State.

CM/Dec.463 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Contributions and Sanctions (CM/Doc.2109 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;

2. **COMMENDS** the excellent work of the Committee on contributions and its important role in sensitizing Member States on their respective financial obligations to the Organization;

3. **FURTHER COMMENDS** those Member States which are up-to date in settling their annual assessed contributions to the OAU Regular Budget, namely Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Senegal and South Africa;

4. **ENDORSES** all the recommendations of the Committee as contained in paragraph 19 of the report;

5. **FURTHER ENDORSES** the recommendation to grant, on exceptional basis a temporary exemption up-to the opening of the next Seventy-first Session of the Council to the following countries:

   a) Burundi
   b) DRC
   c) Sierra Leone
   d) Equatorial Guinea
   e) Chad
   f) Somalia (until further notice)

6. **NOTES WITH SERIOUS CONCERN** that the following countries are affected by the mandatory sanctions in keeping with Article 115 of the Financial Rules and Regulations.

   a) Central African Republic
   b) Federal Republic of Comoros
   c) Guinea Bissau
   d) Liberia

e) Niger
f) Sao Tome and Principe
g) Seychelles

7. **DECIDES** that the Committee should meet, from time to time at Ministerial level, to review specific cases of countries with several years of arrears, and to recommend the appropriate measures for the attention of Council;

8. **DECIDES** that any country in arrears failing to honour its original rescheduling plan submitted to the Committee and endorsed by Council will automatically fall under sanctions bearing in mind that the rescheduling plans should not be used to evade sanctions;

9. **DIRECTS** that any Member State in arrears but which pays 30% of the outstanding amount will be considered for temporary and exceptional exemption for a period up-to the end of the opening of the next Session of Council;

10. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of all the recommendations and decisions as endorsed by Council;

11. **FURTHER DECIDES** that the list of all defaulting Member States be distributed just like other working documents at all OAU Meetings.

CM/Dec.464 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa – (Doc.CM/2111 (LXX)**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **APPROVES** the recommendations of the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Policy Committee of the Fund, particularly the new criteria for submitting requests and awarding grants and loans;

3. **REQUESTS** Member States which have benefited from the Fund to urgently submit to the Secretariat their project implementation reports

to enable the latter to make an evaluation of the projects, thereby ensuring greater credibility in the management of the financial resources of the Fund.

CM/Dec.465 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission – (Doc.CM/2112 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations as adopted by the Twenty-second Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;

3. **INVITES** Member States to implement the recommendations on the employment situation in Africa as adopted by the ILO Sixth Biennial Meeting of African Employment Planners held in Abidjan in February 1999 and to coordinate preparatory activities for the Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly envisaged in the year 2000 on the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Plan of Action;

4. **REQUESTS** Member States to implement the poverty reducing employment strategies for Jobs for Africa (JFA) with its expansion to the North African Member States of the OAU and inclusion of workers and employers organizations in the implementation process;

5. **REQUESTS** Member States to integrate training and human resources development programmes in their economic and social development policies;

6. **REITERATES** the need to restructure the Pan-African Youth Movement (PYM) and review its mandate and objectives and **REQUESTS** the Secretariat in collaboration with its social partners to draft an African Youth Charter;

7. **CALLS UPON** Member States, in collaboration with UNICEF, WHO and other UN Agencies, to develop plans to implement the strategies adopted to assist children isolated by HIV/AIDS;

8. **WELCOMES** the new ILO Convention on the Banning and Immediate Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and **URGES** Member States to ratify it and to implement it at their national levels in collaboration with the ILO, OATUU and other social partners;

9. **CALLS ON** the Secretary-General to work in close collaboration with the ILO on the follow-up of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work particularly in securing technical assistance and advisory services;

10. **ENDORSES** the revised African Common Position on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Control in Africa which incorporated the recommendations adopted by the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drug and **REQUESTS** Member States to take the necessary measures to implement the recommendations and send progress reports to the OAU Secretariat;

11. **CALLS UPON** Member States to fully support and participate in the Seventh All-Africa Games scheduled to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 19 September, 1999 and to sponsor their best athletes and teams for the Games.

CM/Dec.466 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Outcome of the Second and Third Seminars on Nuclear Science and Technology (Doc.CM/2114 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Government of Egypt for hosting the Third Seminar on "Nuclear Technology for Poverty Alleviation" convened in Cairo, in April, 1999 in cooperation with the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the International Atomic Energy Agency for its continuing assistance and support to the OAU for the organization of the Seminars on Nuclear Science and Technology for Development in Africa.

4. **ENDORSES** the recommendations adopted by the Second and Third seminars on Nuclear Science and Technology and **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to implement them in collaboration with the appropriate partners, namely the International Atomic Energy (IAEA) and the Regional Cooperation Agreement "AFRA";

5. **URGES** Member States to accede to the IAEA and to AFRA if they have not yet done so, in order to be able to benefit from the programmes and resources of these institutions;

6. **RECOMMENDS** that Member States become parties to the Conventions and Agreements related to **"Radiation Safety"** and **"Waste Management"** which were developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency;

7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to continue organizing such seminars at least biennially with focus on a specific theme, while giving attention to the implementation of the previous recommendations;

CM/Dec.467 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on Cooperation between the General Secretariat and UNAIDS within the Framework of the International Partnership to Control HIV/AIDS in Africa – (Doc.CM/2115 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **ENDORSES** the new partnership as an innovative framework to mobilize, urgently, Governments and Civil Societies to redirect national and international policies and resources so as to address the evolving HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa and its many compelling implications;

3. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General, in collaboration with UNAIDS and its co-sponsors (the World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA and UNDCP) to take all necessary measures to implement the new partnership and provide it with the necessary technical and financial assistance for successful control of HIV/AIDS epidemic for the benefit of Member States;

4. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Government of Burkina Faso to organize in Ouagadougou in the year 2000, a meeting of African Ministers of Health to evaluate all the actions taken to control the AIDS pandemic in Africa.

CM/Dec.468 (LXX) **Decision on the Progress Report of the Secretary-General on the Activities Related to the Ratification of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Doc.CM/2116 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **NOTES** that almost all Member States of the OAU have ratified the International Convention on the Rights of the Child;

3. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** that the African Charter which was adopted in 1990 has still not come into force;

4. **STRONGLY APPEALS** to Member States which have not yet done so to urgently sign and ratify the Charter to ensure its entry into force;

5. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the Special Committee and the OAU Secretariat for their initiatives to lobby some Member States in the five regions to ratify the African Charter;

6. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP GRATITUDE** to Radda Barnen for its financial assistance which made the lobbying mission possible; and **REQUEST** UNICEF to take necessary measures for the mobilization

of additional resources for the implementation and follow-up of the Charter once it enters into force;

7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** all Member States, on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Convention, to undertake a review of progress made so far, and to work with UNICEF and the OAU Secretariat, within the framework of the memorandum of understanding, to further accelerate the progress of meaningful implementation;

8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to establish the follow-up mechanism in collaboration with UNICEF, ILO, WHO, UNHCR, ICRC and other social partners to monitor and ensure the implementation of the Consensus of Dakar and reinforce the protection of the Rights of the Child and the Child's development.

CM/Dec.469 (LXX) **Decision on the Progress Report of the Secretary-General on the Efforts Deployed Towards Mainstreaming African Women's Concerns into Peace and Sustainable Development Processes - Doc.CM/2117 (LXX)**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **RECALLS** Resolution CM/Res.1465 (LVIII) setting out the measures needed to bring about gender equity and create a more egalitarian society; and **REITERATES** its call upon the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to ensure that the Women's Unit is sufficiently strengthened in its structural positioning and in terms of human, financial and other resources to enable it to carry out the strategies, programmes and other activities directed towards mainstreaming women's concerns and gender issues into the policies, programmes and activities of the General Secretariat and the OAU Member States;

3. **To this end, STRONGLY URGES** all Member States, the International Community at large, the donor community, the UN System and all stakeholders to collaborate closely with the OAU

General Secretariat by providing it with the political, financial, material, human, diplomatic and logistical support;

4. **ENDORSES** the OAU Plan of Action on Enhancing the Participation of Refugee, Returnee and Internally Displaced Women and Children in Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Reconstruction and Peace-Building, and **CALLS UPON** all stakeholders, particularly the Member States and all those involved with refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons to support and implement the Plan of Action;

5. **APPEALS** to Member States, UN Agencies, and development partners to give all the needed support to the African Women Committee on Peace and Development to enable it carry out its mandate effectively;

6. **RECOMMITS** itself to the principles enunciated and enshrined in the African and Global Platforms for Action and **CALLS UPON** Member States and all stakeholders to accelerate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these two Platforms and to support the convening of the Sixth African Conference scheduled in Addis Ababa in November 1999;

7. **RECALLS** the Resolution CM/Res.1689 (LXII) requesting the Secretary-General of the OAU to submit to the Council periodical reports on the progress made as well as on the difficulties encountered in implementing the African and the global platforms for action;

8. **TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION** the recommendations submitted by the Committee on Women and Development to the Current Chairman of the OAU on 5 April 1999 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and **CALLS UPON** Member States to:

- Take special measures to promote the participation of women in political decision-making, particularly in governments, Inter-African Organisations, in national delegations participating in African meetings including meetings relating to peace and development process;

- Enhance the status of women and build human and financial capacities of departments in charge of the promotion of women at all levels to

enable them ensure the implementation and follow-up of the African and Global Platforms for Action.

9. **WELCOMES** and supports the Zanzibar Declaration on Women and a Culture of Peace and the accompanying Women's Agenda for a Culture of Peace in Africa which came out of the Pan –African Women's conference on a Culture of Peace held in Zanzibar, Tanzania, in April 1999; and **ENCOURAGES** all stakeholders to observe the principles and implement the recommendations contained therein.

CM/Dec.470 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Coordination Mechanism of Follow-up of the Convention to Combat Desertification and Other Related Rio Convention (Doc.CM/2118 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **APPROVES** the proposed coordination Mechanism made up of OAU, ADB, ECA, the RECs (ECOWAS, SADC, COMESA, ECCAS, UMA, IGAD...). CILSS, the CCD Secretariat, AMCEN Secretariat as a framework to discuss views and problems and pave a path for common strategies in Africa;

3. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General in collaboration with the CCD Secretariat and UNEP to take necessary measures to put in place the mechanism as soon as possible, in line with modalities to be agreed upon with the Regional Economic Communities and other Institutions members of the Mechanism;

4. **REQUESTS** all Member States, Regional Economic Integration Communities, and relevant and specialized scientific and technical institutions in Africa, to cooperate with the General Secretariat in this endeavour;

5. **CALLS UPON** development technical and financial partners, particularly the relevant United Nations Specialized Agencies (UNEP,

UNDP/UNSO, FAO, WMO, CCD Secretariat, ...) and International NGOs, to collaborate with and support, technically and financially, the OAU Secretariat in its effort to put in place the mechanism to make it operational.

CM/Dec.471 (LXX) **Decision on the Progress Report of the Secretary-General on the Status of Implementation of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy 1993 – 2003 on Nutrition – (Doc.CM/2119 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **URGES** Member States to develop mechanisms of support and protection of domestic food producers on the Continent, individually or collectively;

3. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to devise and implement policies that can increase public awareness for the production and consumption of indigenous and traditional foods which are rich in micronutrients;

4. **COMMENDS** the collaboration between the General Secretariat and relevant international partners (especially WHO, UNICEF, FAO and the World Bank) on matters of food and nutrition and **URGES** the partners to strengthen such a collaboration by assisting Member States in achieving sustainable food and nutrition security;

5. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General, in collaboration with other relevant partners, to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy;

6. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-general to follow-up and report to the next Council the implementation of the recommendations.

CM/Dec.472 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on Afro-Arab Cooperation – (Doc.CM/2120 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained in Memorandum CM/Info (Egypt) presented by Egypt and **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat to take concrete actions to implement these recommendations in cooperation with the League of Arab States;

3. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to pursue his contacts with his Arab League counterpart with a view to convening as early as possible the Twelfth Session of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation in Algiers;

4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to explore the ways and means of allocating OAU's share of resources for the take-off of the activities of the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute;

5. **THANKS** the Governments of Burkina Faso and Senegal for the good facilities provided on the occasion of the Second Afro-Arab Business Week and the Fourth Afro-Arab Trade Fair which made it possible to ensure the success of these events;

6. **DECIDES** that ..... which will host the Headquarters of the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute and the Deputy Director-General should come from.....

CM/Dec.473 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Ministerial Conference on the Draft OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism – (Doc.CM/2121 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **ENDORSES** the Decision of the Ministerial Conference and **DECIDES** to recommend the Draft OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism to the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for adoption;

3. **FURTHER ENDORSES** the Recommendation of the Ministerial Conference on the initiative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to convene an international summit conference under the auspices of the United Nations to elaborate the international strategy needed to combat terrorism and identify the necessary international instruments required by the international community to eliminate the phenomenon of terrorism.

CM/Dec.474 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Status of the Signature/Ratification of OAU Treaties – (Doc.CM/2122 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **APPEALS** to Member States to support the treaties which have been concluded under the auspices of the OAU and to ensure their effective implementation by signing and ratifying those treaties which they have not yet signed and/or ratified, in particular the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

CM/Dec.475 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Ministerial Conference on Human Rights (Doc.CM/2123 (LXX))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **ENDORSES** the Grand Bay (Mauritius) Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the First OAU Ministerial Conference on

Human Rights in Africa and **CALLS UPON** all Member States, the OAU and all relevant UN Agencies and other international partners to implement it;

3. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to ensure that the recommendations contained in the Grand Bay (Mauritius) Declaration and Plan of Action are reflected in all the relevant programmes of the OAU and to put in place the necessary mechanisms for appropriate follow-up action on the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action.

CM/Dec.476 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Draft Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and the Union of African Parliaments (Doc.CM/2124 (LXX)-c))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **APPROVES** the Draft Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and the Union of African Parliaments;

3. **AUTHORIZES** the Secretary-General to sign the Cooperation Agreement and to take the necessary measures for its implementation.

CM/Dec.477 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Draft Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (Africa Region) – (Doc.CM/2124 (LXX)-d))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **APPROVES** the Draft Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (Africa Region);

3. **AUTHORIZES** the Secretary-General to sign the Cooperation Agreement and to take the necessary measures for its implementation.

CM/Dec.478 (LXX) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Draft Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and UNAIDS – (Doc.CM/2124 (LXX)-e))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **APPROVES** the Draft Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and UNAIDS;

3. **AUTHORIZES** the Secretary-General to sign the Cooperation Agreement and to take the necessary measures for its implementation.

CM/Dec.479 (LXX) **Decision on the Report on the Conference on an African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment – (Doc.CM/2097 (LXX) Add.1))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **WELCOMES WITH APPRECIATION** the global, regional and sub-regional initiatives and efforts to strengthen cooperation on the protection and development of our coastal and marine environment;

3. **RECOGNIZES** the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions as potentially the most suitable legal frameworks for the mobilization of regionally coordinated efforts fostering the sustainable development of African coastal and marine areas;

4. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the main conclusions and recommendations of the Pan-African Conference on Sustainable Integrated Coastal Management (PACSICOM), held in Maputo (18 to 24 July, 1998) and the ACOPS Conference on Cooperation for the

Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa, held in Cape Town (30 November to 4 December, 1998);

5. **AFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT** to strengthen and improve cooperation between the African States, through the relevant existing and evolving global, regional and sub-regional agreements, programmes and institutional mechanisms;

6. **ENDORSES** the Declaration on an African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment adopted at the Cape Town Conference, including:

   a) the convening of a Partnership Conference in 2000 to consider concrete action proposals, in the form of projects and programmes developed on the basis of priorities identified by the Maputo and Cape Town Conferences; and

   b) the Preparatory Committee established to guide and coordinate the preparations for the Partnership Conference and its planned activities, including the development of a proposal for a GEF-assisted project in support of the preparations for the Partnership Conference.

7. **INVITES** all African States:

   a) to support and actively participate in the implementation of the African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment; and

   b) to cooperate fully with the Preparatory Committee of the Partnership Conference, in order to contribute to the success of the Conference.

8. **FURTHER INVITES** also global and regional organizations and programmes, as well as States interested in environmentally sound development and the sustainable use of African coastal and marine resources, to assist in the preparation of the Partnership Conference and in the implementation of projects and programmes expected to be endorsed by the Conference;

9. **DECIDES** to initiate, through the Secretariat of the OAU, a broad consultation with the relevant African institutions on the need for the rationalization and harmonization of the numerous regional, sub-regional and bilateral programmes and institutional mechanisms dealing with developmental and environmental issues, including the possible establishment of a regional African Commission on Sustainable Development; and

10. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to report on the results of these consultations to the next appropriate meeting of the OAU.

CM/Dec.480 (LXX) **Decision on the Strengthening of OAU/UNESCO Cooperation (Doc.CM/2097 (LXX) Add.3))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **CALLS ON** Member States to:

   a) strengthen the measures, already taken by them towards human capacity development, and give their backing to efforts deployed by UNESCO, concerning the International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), the Pan-African Network of Human Resources in Education (Pretoria, South Africa), the International Institute for the Education of Young Girls and Women (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), International Youth Centre (Lilongwe, Malawi), University of Dar-es-Salaam's Centre of Maintenance (Tanzania) and the Inter-African Cultural Centre (Port-Louis, Mauritius);

   b) take concrete measures towards the preparation and implementation of an African Solar Programme (1996 – 2005), an offshoot of the World Solar Programme, in conformity with the commitments contained in the Harare Declaration;

c) promote programmes directed to building a culture of peace which, with the support of the international community, would facilitate implementation of actions in the realms of education for tolerance, human rights, democracy and peace, as well as prevention of the conflicts undermining peace and security in several regions of Africa.

3. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU and the Director-General of UNESCO to:

a) take necessary steps to review, in order to strengthen, the Cooperation Agreement signed between the OAU and UNESCO in 1968, focussing inter-alia, on pooling their expertise in the service of Member States, and continue developing consultation mechanisms geared to implementation of common projects;

b) pursue initiatives aimed at strengthening the efforts invested by Member States, regional organizations and the international community to promote an environment of peace and stability for the development of Africa, and sensitize public opinion to recognize the right to peace as a fundamental right of the human person.

4. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to present a report on OAU/UNESCO cooperation in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO, to its Seventy-second Ordinary Session.

CM/Dec.481 (LXX) **Decision on the Development of Science and Technology in Africa - (Doc.CM/2097 (LXX) Add.4))**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **RECALLS** the establishment of a one million United States Dollar (US$1,000,000.00) International Fund for Technology Development in Africa at the UNESCO Conference on Science and Technology (Nairobi, Kenya, 14 – 15 February 1994);

3. **FURTHER RECALLS** Resolution CM/Res.1570 (LXI) and CM/Res.1633 (LXII) adopted, respectively, by the Sixty-first and Sixty-third Ordinary Sessions of the Council of Ministers;

4. **CALLS ON** Member States to:

   a) mobilize necessary resources to replenish the Fund to enable it to effectively attain the objectives assigned to it;

   b) endeavour to take appropriate steps to progressively set aside, within the limits of their resources, at least 0.4% of their GDP for scientific and technological research;

   c) endeavour to do their utmost to allocate whenever possible to science and technology development at least 3% of the resources they have obtained from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

5. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU, in concert with the Director-General of UNESCO, to pursue initiatives aimed at encouraging the States to mobilize resources for replenishing the Fund;

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU, in concert with the Director-General of UNESCO, to pursue initiatives geared at encouraging the States to earmark 3% of the resources they have obtained from UNDP for Science and Technology Development in Africa;

7. **CALLS ON** the international community to give the necessary support to African countries in their endeavour to promote science and technology.

CM/Dec.482(LXX) **Decision on the Report on the "African Conference on the Use of Children as Soldiers"**

Council:

1. **COMMENDS** the "African Conference on the Use of Children as Soldiers", held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 19 – 22 April, 1999;

2. **REITERATES** its Resolution 1659 (LXIV), on the plight of African children in situations of armed conflicts, adopted in Yaounde, Cameroon, in July, 1996, and **WELCOMES** the outcome of the OAU/African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect Continental Conference on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict of June 1997;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS SATISFACTION** at the outcome of the Maputo Conference;

4. **URGES** all Member States to ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

5. **RECOMMENDS** the setting up of a Special Committee on the Situation of Children in Armed Conflicts;

6. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to adopt and promote norms in respective countries prohibiting recruitment and use as soldiers, children under 18 years of age;

7. **COMMENDS** the Secretary-General for its efforts in the dissemination of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and other relevant documents, and for sensitizing African Governments for the eradication of the use of children as soldiers.

8. **INVITES** the OAU Secretary-General to put in place the appropriate mechanisms in order to set in motion the process of combatting this phenomenon in anticipation of the elaboration of an International Convention on this issue.

CM/Dec.483 (LXX) **Decision on Un-Constitutional Changes in Member States**

Council:

1. **EXPRESS ITS GRAVE CONCERN** about the resurgence of coup d'Etat in Africa;

2. **CONSEQUENTLY MANDATES** the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution to re-activate, as a matter of urgency, the Committee on Anti-Constitutional Changes, in order to finalize its work in the light of the Harare Declaration, in particular the measures to apply in coup d'Etat situations occurring in Member States;

3. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to report on the matter to its Seventy-second Session.

CM/Dec.484 (LXX) **Decision on African Candidatures for Posts within the United Nations System and Other International Organisations**

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures;

2. **DECIDES** to endorse the recommendations of the Committee and lend its support to the following African candidatures:

   a) Ambassador Louis Dominique Ouedraogo of Burkina Faso, for the post of Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations;

   b) Ambassador Dr. Kamil-Cassis Wafik Zaher of Egypt for the Post by Secretary-General of the Asian/African legal Consultative Committee;

   c) Mr. Augustine Chihuri of Zimbabwe for the Post of Vice President of Interpol (Africa);

d) The Republic of Zambia for a seat Executive Council of the World Tourism Organisation;

e) The Republic of Mali as a Non-Permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2000-2001;

f) Mr. Mazou Moussibahou of the Republic of Congo for re-election to the post of Deputy Secretary-General of the Universal postal Union (UPU).

REGULATION

The Council of Ministers,

Considering the Charter of the Organization of African Unity,

Further Considering Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,

Recalling Decision AHG/OAU/AEC/Decl.1 (II) and Regulation CM/AEC/Rule 1 (III) of the Second and Third Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, and the Council of Ministers of the Community, respectively, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in June 1998;

Having considered the report of the Third Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) held in Addis Ababa, on 17 June 1999;

Taking Note of the recent meetings of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA),

RULES AS FOLLOWS

1. **Cooperation between the AEC and the RECs**

   a) The OAU/AEC Member States should intensify their efforts at ensuring the establishment of relations between the Secretariat of the African Economic Community and that of the Arab Maghreb Union;

   b) The General Secretariat should give greater publicity to all decisions of the Assembly as a way of keeping the African populations abreast of the progress achieved towards continental integration;

   c) The General Secretariat should submit to the Fourth Session of ECOSOC a report on the implementation of the Protocol on Relations between the AEC and the RECs, more

especially on the relations between the RECs, and conduct studies in cooperation with the ECA, ADB and the RECs on the self-financing mechanism for the AEC and the RECs, thus making it possible to establish such a mechanism during the second stage of implementation of the Treaty.

d) The AEC and the RECs should take appropriate measures to strengthen their cooperation and coordinate their activities in all areas in conformity with Article 88 of the Treaty and the Protocol on Relations between the AEC and the RECs, and the General Secretariat should take necessary steps to convene as early as possible a meeting of the Committee on Coordination as provided for under the Protocol on Relations between the AEC and the RECs, in order to promote coordination and harmonise programmes;

e) The RECs should :

   i) bear in mind their individual and collective responsibility for the establishment of the AEC, particularly with regard to programme coordination and participation in all AEC related activities as provided for in Article 88 of the Treaty and in the Protocol on Relations between the AEC and RECs.

   ii) include a specific item on the agenda of all their relevant meetings on implementation of the AEC, and submit annual reports thereon to their policy organs.

f) The RECs are urged to intensify their efforts towards the promotion of regional integration pursuant to the objectives of continental integration as contained in the AEC;

g) Member States of the OAU/AEC and Member States of the RECs as well as the General Secretariat should continue to support and strengthen the RECs concerned, in their integration activities;

h) The General Secretariat and the RECs should coordinate their activities in regard to studies so as to avoid duplication.

2. Consultative Forum of African Parliamentarians

The General Secretariat should take appropriate steps to convene as soon as possible a meeting of African Parliamentarians representing national parliaments or assemblies and, where applicable, regional consultative fora, in order to formally set up the Consultative Forum as approved by the Summit.

3. Free Movement of Persons

a) Member States are urged to comply with the 2nd AEC Summit Decision to the effect that "officials of the RECs and the African Economic Community, holders of official travel documents of these institutions, should be exempt from visa requirements during travels within Member States."

b) the General Secretariat should:

i) submit a report on the implementation of the Summit Decision on free movement of persons, to the next Session of ECOSOC after due consultation and coordination with the RECs on this important issue;

ii) do its utmost to sensitise Member States on the binding and mandatory nature of the decisions and regulations of the AEC pursuant to the provisions of the Treaty.

4. Functioning of the Specialised Technical Committees

a) The Specialised Technical Committees, during the second stage of implementation of the Treaty, should accord priority to the promotion of programme harmonisation and coordination within the context of the AEC sectoral protocols;

b) Further the General Secretariat should also undertake a review of the existing inter-governmental organs, particularly the Ministerial Conferences/ Commissions with a view to aligning them with the provisions of the AEC Treaty, and submit recommendations on the future and status of these organs.

5. <u>Popularisation of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community</u>

a) Member States and the General Secretariat should not relent in their efforts at popularising the AEC Treaty;

b) To that end, General Secretariat should organise, in cooperation with the RECs, a workshop for media experts, journalists and non-governmental organisations with the objective of getting them involved in the popularisation process;

c) The General Secretariat should furthermore harmonise its official documentation, publication and correspondence in order to portray its dual character as Secretariat both of the OAU and of the AEC.

Done in Algiers, Algeria on 10 July, 1999

REGULATION

The Council of Ministers,

Considering the Charter of the Organization of African Unity,

Considering Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Recalling Decision AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (II) and Regulation CM/AEC/Regl.1 (III) of the Second and Third Ordinary Sessions of Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers of the African Economic Community, respectively, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in June 1998,

Having considered the report of the Third Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) held in Addis Ababa on 17 June, 1999,

RULES AS FOLLOWS

1. **Industrial Development and Energy**

   a) Priority should be accorded to the Plan of Action of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, in particular the programmes on advocacy and resource mobilization. In this connection, Member States are urged to intensify efforts to implement the plan in recognition of the key role of industrialization in employment creation and poverty eradication;

   b) Priority should also be accorded to the harmonization and coordination of industrial development policies at regional level in the first instance, and at the Continental level in the second instance, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and competition;

c) The General Secretariat should take appropriate steps to organize a meeting of African Energy Experts within the context of the relevant Specialized Technical Committee provided for under the Treaty before the end of 1999, to review the proposals for the establishment of the African Energy Commission, and to submit proposals to ECOSOC on the best approach to the creation of the Commission, taking into account the different scenarios developed by the OAU/AEC Inter-Agency Experts Meeting on the Establishment of the African Energy Commission as detailed in Document OAU/AEC/ECOSOC/7 (III) paragraphs 5.7 and 5.17;

d) Note is taken of the offer by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host:

i) the African Energy Experts' meeting;
ii) the African Energy Commission once it is established.

2. **Transport, Communications and Tourism**

a) Development of Transport, Communications and Tourism

i) The African Development Bank should increase the level of its funding of regional infrastructural projects in the transport and communications sector, as a way of facilitating production and trade in the Continent;

ii) Council approves and adopts:

- the 1999 – 2001 Work Programme in the Transport, Communications and Tourism sector;

- the Protocol on Transport, Communications and Tourism; and

- the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Transport, Communications and Tourism.

iii) African telecommunications operators and other private investors should participate in the planned RASCOM-Build-Operate and Transfer Company in order to support this important phase of RASCOM.

b) INFOCOM Africa (Second Edition)

The General Secretariat should:

i) take necessary measures to organize the Second Edition of INFOCOM Africa Exhibition on New Information and Communications Technologies alongside the Thirty-sixth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU and the Fourth Summit of the AEC;

ii) initiate preparatory activities to this end, and submit a progress thereon to the Council of Ministers in February 2000.

c) OAU Specialized Agencies – Transport, Communications and Tourism Sector

i) The General Secretariat should undertake:

- a redefinition of the role assigned to the OAU Specialized Agencies in the light of the changing environment in the sector;

- a restructuring of OAU Specialized Agencies with a view to streamlining their activities, enhancing their efficiency, and making them cost-effective, thereby enabling them to meet the challenges in the Sector and fulfil the aspirations of their members; and

- an expansion of their membership to include the private sector;

ii) Member States of the Specialized Agencies should honour their financial obligations to the latter;

iii) The Specialized Agencies should explore avenues to generate income in order to reduce their reliance on contributions from Member States.

3. **Intra-African Trade**

The General Secretariat in collaboration with the most appropriate partners should:

i) Undertake studies on the workings of the Compensation Fund in terms of revenue loss in all the RECs, and in the sub-regional organizations that have adopted such schemes;

ii) Organize regional workshops for customs, immigration as well as trade officials and economic operators;

iii) Investigate the complementarities or contradictions in structuring the tariff schedules of selected Member States as a result of the implementation of structural adjustment programmes and regional trade liberalization schedules, bearing in mind the requirements of the WTO Rules with a view to harmonizing these schedules.

4. **The Eight All-Africa Trade Fair**

a) The authorities of Cote d'Ivoire should take the necessary measures to ensure the success of the Eight OAU/AEC/All Africa Trade Fair;

b) The Secretary-General should pursue consultations with the authorities of Cote d'Ivoire in order to finalize the process for the organization of the Fair and to submit a report thereon to the Council of Ministers at its Seventieth Ordinary Session.

5. **Money and Finance**

The General Secretariat should:

a) Undertake:

i) in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (ADB) as well as the African Capital Markets Forum (ACMF), action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Mauritius Forum on Financial Market Integration, and in particular the development of sub-regional Stock Exchanges for each REC and Financial Inter-Mediation projects such as Venture Capital Funds, Mutual Funds and regional Insurance and Guarantees Institutions;

ii) in cooperation with the RECs, preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development scheduled for the year 2001, land to convene the first session of the Monetary and Finance Committee of the AEC, in order to assist in formulating an African common position on the matter;

b) Keep under constant review, developments in monetary, and financial policies in all Member States in order to facilitate consideration of policy harmonization in these areas.

6. International Negotiations

a) ACP-European Union

i) Member States participating in ACP-EU, negotiations should maintain unity and solidarity with other members of the Group throughout the negotiations;

ii) The General Secretariat, in cooperation with the ECA and ADB, should continue to provide technical and logistic support with the assistance of the Panel of Experts/Advisors to African negotiators throughout the negotiations;

iii) Member States should continue to participate effectively in the negotiations;

iv) The General Secretariat should submit an evaluation report on the ACP-EU negotiations covering all aspects of a new Convention, to the Fourth Ordinary Session of ECOSOC.

b) TICAD II

i) The Government of Japan should be commended for organizing the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development and for its continued commitment of support for Africa's development effort;

ii) African countries are called upon to intensify their efforts at implementing the TICAD II Agenda for Action by inter-alia, preparing and submitting concrete projects for financing under the TICAD II Facility;

iii) The General Secretariat is requested to establish such modalities as would enable it to monitor and support the activities relating to the implementation of the

TICAD II Agenda and submit regular reports thereon to ECOSOC.

c) World Trade Organization

i) All Member States should undertake an assessment of their respective national interests in the WTO negotiations;

ii) Are approved hereby the "Elements for Positive Agenda in the WTO negotiations from an African Perspective" (Doc.CM/2110 (LXX) Add.4) as the common African framework for participation in the Third WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in November 1999 in Seattle, USA and the African Group in Geneva is requested to submit this document to WTO;

iii) All Member States should participate effectively in the OAU/AEC Ministers of Trade Meeting scheduled for September 1999 in Algiers;

iv) The General Secretariat together with the Panel of Experts established in pursuance of the Ouagadougou Summit Decision should continue to monitor the negotiations, provide technical and logistic support to African member States and submit periodic reports thereon to ECOSOC;

v) The United States Administration should be commended for its commitment to support observer status for the OAU/AEC at the WTO.

d) United States – Africa Ministerial Meeting

i) The United States Administration should be commended for its continued commitment and interest

to support Africa's development effort, particularly for organizing the first US-Africa Ministerial Conference;

ii) President Clinton's Debt Reduction Initiative should also be commended. The General Secretariat should undertake analysis of this initiative and submit its findings to the Contact Group;

iii) The General Secretariat should pursue the implementation of the "Blueprint on US-Africa Partnership in the 21st Century", especially with respect to the institutionalization of the partnership and submit periodic reports thereon to the ECOSOC;

iv) The RECs and all Member States which have not yet done so should initiate action to implement the Blueprint on US Africa Partnership in the 21st Century.

e) OAU/EU Summit

The Assembly should decide on the recommendations of the Council on this issue;

f) Tenth UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD X) and Third UN Conference on Least Developed Countries

The General Secretariat should coordinate preparations among Member States for UNCTAD X scheduled to be held in 2000 and for the Third UN Conference on LDCs slated for 2001, in collaboration with the RECs and ECA..

7. Africa's External Debt Problem

a) Member States should:

i) submit national experiences in debt negotiation and management to the OAU/AEC General Secretariat to

enable other countries to benefit from these experiences and also to help the Contact Group develop collective strategies for debt relief;

ii) provide the OAU General Secretariat with information on the debt owed to the former Soviet Union to enable the Contact Group and the Secretariat to embark on negotiations with Russia;

iii) strengthen their national capacities for debt management and negotiations;

iv) consider the possibility of commercial debt buy-back at a discount, which is a preferred method for debt relief in relation to the negotiation of long-term moratoria which do not eliminate debt; and

v) opt for debt swaps, such as debt-for-equity and debt-for-development swaps, which are usually part of creditors' debt relief packages.

b) The Current Chairman of the Contact Group should sensitise the G7/G8 countries towards the ultimate cancellation of the African debt.

c) The Contact Group should:

i) meet with G24/G77 countries to push the debt agenda with the IMF/World Bank on improvements to the HIPC framework and other debt relief issues;

ii) consider the situation of middle income African countries with respect to debt relief and bring increased attention to their plight;

iii) urgently establish links with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) such as the Jubilee 2000

Coalition, OXFAM, Action Aid, Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and the European Network for Debt and Development (EURODAD) towards advocacy for debt cancellation, and the consideration of poverty and human development dimensions in the reform of debt relief frameworks;

iv) make necessary arrangements to ensure that it meets at least twice a year.

d) The Contact Group and the General Secretariat should keep the "African debt issue and debt management and negotiation experiences" permanently on the agenda of OAU/AEC ECOSOC meetings.

e) The General Secretariat should:

i) take appropriate steps to ensure that the International Conference on Africa's External Debt Crisis is maintained among its priorities, and in close consultation with the Contact Group to determine the appropriate time for such a Conference to be called, including a review of its format;

ii) in collaboration with the UNECA and ADB, continue to work together in addressing Africa's External Debt Crisis particularly with regard to capital flight from Africa and its reversal.

f) African Ministers of Finance and Governors of African Central Banks should review their method of work at World Bank/IMF meetings so as to provide a more meaningful impact in their negotiations with these institutions.

8. Population Policies and Strategies

Member States should:

i) exert more effort and demonstrate greater commitment in the realisation of the full implementation of Dakar/Ngor Declaration (DND) and the Plan of Action of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (PA-ICPD);

ii) define clear and efficient strategies for the implementation of the policies adopted within an integrated approach to issues relating to population, environment and agriculture, as well as to the technological application in order to achieve sustainable development;

iii) fully involve the populations at grass-root level, the NGOs sector, women's groups etc.. in dialogue and consultations at all levels, and pay sufficient attention to the emerging threats to demography, particularly HIV/AIDS, the consequences of war and civil strife;

iv) create efficient institutional mechanisms for co-ordinating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating population activities in the continent and strengthen national capacities for research, data collection and analysis, as well as maximum utilisation of national and regional training and research centres;

v) give effective and meaningful support to Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and advocacy programmes addressing all levels of government, NGOs, the private sector, as well as segments of the population, aimed at both mobilising resources and achieving behavioural changes in order to enhance all the aspects of population and development programmes;

vi) promote and strengthen the role of the family in inculcating appropriate gender values;

vii) make efforts to obtain more resources for reproductive health, enhance the deployment of mobile service units, the use of community agents and the construction of new health units, particularly in under served areas;

viii) integrate all components of reproductive health into public health programmes, starting with elements which are of utmost priority, e.g. HIV/AIDS; and

ix) promote the involvement of women groups, lawyers' associations, NGOs, in the dissemination of reproductive rights.

9. Institutionalisation of 13 September as "African Technology and Intellectual Property Day"

a) The OAU Council of Ministers should recommend to the Assembly that 13 September of each year should be observed as "African Technology and Intellectual Property Day"; and

b) The General Secretariat should take all the necessary steps to that effect.

Done in Algiers, Algeria on 10 July, 1999

Annex II

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Declarations and decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session and third ordinary session of the African Economic Community

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ALGIERS DECLARATION

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organisation of African Unity, meeting in Algiers, Algeria, from 12 to 14 July 1999, solemnly declare as follows:

The end of the Second Millennium represents for Africa, the demise of an era characterised by colonisation and its tragic trail of domination, plunder and negation of the African personality. We welcome this development and affirm our resolve to strive towards ensuring that Africa and Mankind as a whole are never again subjected to such an experience so demeaning to the human dignity.

Through huge sacrifices and heroic struggles, Africa has broken the colonial yoke, regained its freedom and embarked upon the task of nation – building. This achievement constitutes for us a source of profound and legitimate pride, as these struggles have not only crystallised the determination of our peoples, who made the greatest sacrifices to assert their existence and their legitimate rights, but also have contributed significantly in inculcating in the peoples and nations of the continent the universal principles of the right of peoples to be the architect of their own destiny, the right to self-determination and independence, as well as the principle of the sovereign equality of states and their right to development.

It is therefore with the most profound respect that we bow to the memory of all the martyrs of Africa whose supreme sacrifice has paved the way for the continent to regain its freedom and dignity. We pay tribute to the sons and daughters of our continent who laid down their lives for its political and economic emancipation, and for the restoration of its identity and civilisation, under conditions of extreme adversity.

This is evidenced by the legacy of conflict situations which like many time bombs, exist here and there on the continent, coupled with problems arising from an economic infrastructure geared exclusively to satisfying the needs of the colonial metropolis, problems emanating from a political/administrative organisation rooted in authoritarianism and ethnic divisions, widespread illiteracy and extreme marginalization of the African peoples - so many problems whose magnitude has been exacerbated by the climate of the cold war and the negative impact of a basically unfair international economic system.

All these problems constitute an unwieldy heritage whose cumulative effects have been, and continue to be, for the most part, the root cause of the numerous conflicts, crises, poverty and under-development weighing heavily on the overwhelming majority of the peoples of Africa.

We do not intend, by the aforesaid, to shirk our own responsibility for the problems and difficulties still bedevilling our countries and the continent in general; rather, we wish to underscore the immensity of the efforts exerted by our respective countries, individually and collectively, to overcome the problems inherited from colonisation, ensure peace and stability on the continent, consolidate the hard-won national sovereignty, establish stable state institutions and promote an equitable and fair economic and social development in our countries.

Inspired by its intrinsic ancestral values, Africa was able to muster the strength and determination to assert its existence and take up all these challenges. Equally inspired by this same spirit and these same values, we commit ourselves to face up to the new and formidable challenges which today confront our continent.

We are deeply convinced that the Organisation of African Unity has played an irreplaceable role in the affirmation of political identity and the realisation of the unity of our continent. We hail the pioneering work of our Founding Fathers, and commit ourselves to further this accomplishment, and to continue to make the OAU the vital instrument of our collective action both within Africa and in our relations with the rest of the world.

Convinced that respect for the principle of inviolability of the borders inherited at independence contributed decisively to the preservation of peace and stability on our continent, we reaffirm its validity and permanence as a fundamental norm applicable in the settlement of border disputes.

We hail Africa's concerted action in ensuring that the process of decolonization of the continent is brought to a successful conclusion. In this regard, we reiterate our support for the speedy implementation of the UN-led Peace Plan in the Western Sahara in cooperation with the OAU.

We also reaffirm our determination to promote the use of peaceful means in the resolution of conflicts, in conformity with the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference, non-recourse to threats or the use of force, and of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

In this respect, we believe that the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution is a valuable asset for our continent which must be nurtured and consolidated. This Mechanism, which symbolises the concrete resolve of our continent to fully assume its responsibilities, does not exonerate the United Nations

Organisation from its obligations under the UN Charter as far as the maintenance of international peace and security is concerned.

We believe that youth and women's commitment and participation can contribute towards creating an enabling environment which conduces towards a culture of peace and tolerance.

To that end, we reiterate our commitment to the Global Plan of Action on Youth and the African Platform for Action, which is an integral part of the Global Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women as an appropriate framework for creating a more egalitarian society."

We also reaffirm our determination to work relentlessly towards the promotion of the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and our commitment to combat all forms of child exploitation, and, in particular, put an end to the phenomenon of child soldier.

We believe that human rights have undergone major positive changes since the independence of African countries. The liberation movements of our peoples, the efforts of our countries and of the OAU to codify and implement these rights, as well as the current dynamic process of establishing new democratic spaces in Africa have contributed to a very large extent to these changes. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Protocol on African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as the Declaration and the Plan of Action, recently adopted in Mauritius, eloquently testify to Africa's contribution to the promotion and protection of the noble cause of Human Rights. We, however, recognise that much remains to be done to bring these developments to the level of our own expectations and the legitimate aspirations of our peoples. We are

aware of these limitations and are determined not to relent in our efforts to transcend them.

In this spirit, we reiterate our commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We emphasise the indivisibility, universality and inter-dependence of all human rights, be they political and civil or economic, social and cultural, or even individual or collective. We call upon the international community to ensure that they are not used for political purposes.

We are convinced that the increase in, and expansion of the spaces of freedom and the establishment of democratic institutions that are representative of our peoples and receiving their active participation, would further contribute to the consolidation of modern African States underpinned by the rule of law, respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens and the democratic management of public affairs.

Despite the hopes generated by the end of the cold war and the attendant prospects of peace, development and integration in the world economy, we note that the post-cold war era is fraught with new and grave uncertainties, serious risks of marginalization and new challenges that pose numerous threats to our continent.

On the occasion of the Algiers summit, the last Summit of this Millennium, we would like to highlight the most important of these new challenges.

First, globalisation is undoubtedly the most widespread of these challenges. Ushered in with promises of progress and prosperity for all, it has today aroused fears, in that it poses serious threats to our

sovereignty, cultural and historical identities as well as gravely undermining our development prospects. We believe that globalisation should be placed within the framework of a democratically conceived dynamics, and implemented collectively to make it an institution capable of fulfilling the hope for a concerted development of mankind and prosperity shared by all peoples.

Secondly, we note with grave concern, the growing marginlisation of the United Nations and its role under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of international cooperation for development. We declare that the unilateral use of force in international relations, outside the duly conferred mandate of the United Nations Security Council, opens the way to practices inimical to world peace and security.

We reaffirm our commitment to respect for the major role and responsibilities of the United Nations and its Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. In this connection, we, once again, call for a genuine democratisation of international relations based on the active participation and a balanced consideration of the legitimate concerns of all nations. We call, in particular, for the democratisation of the United Nations and its Security Council, and the recognition of Africa's legitimate place within this organ.

The need for democratisation equally applies to other international institutions including, particularly, the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Thirdly, we believe that the nuclear disarmament issue and the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction remain a challenge

and a crucial urgent problem facing the international community, and to which a definitive and lasting solution can be found only through general and comprehensive disarmament, under strict and effective international control. Africa has always demonstrated its readiness to bring its contribution to bear on this process, as evidenced by the conclusion and implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty. This important step taken by Africa should be complemented by the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East taking into account the inter-dependence between the security in both regions.

We believe that illegal movement, proliferation and trafficking of light weapons constitute another threat to the peace and security of the continent, and we commit ourselves to combat this scourge and lend our support to the regional and international mechanisms charged with preventing and combating this phenomenon.

Fourthly, we underscore the fact that new forms of threat to the stability of societies and the life of individuals such as terrorism, drug trafficking and organised crime also dangerously affect Africa and we call for a collective effort to address them. To this end, we call for the creation of appropriate mechanisms for the eradication of the phenomena of corruption, as well as arms and drug trafficking.

Indeed, terrorism which is a transnational phenomenon, represents today a serious challenge to the values of civilisation and a flagrant violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It also poses serious threats to the stability and security of states and their national institutions as well as to international peace and security. While reiterating our profound attachment to the struggle waged by peoples for freedom and self-determination, in conformity with the principles of international law, we call for an effective and efficient

international cooperation which should be given concrete expression, under the auspices of OAU, through a speedy conclusion of a Global International Convention for the Prevention and Control of Terrorism in all its forms and the convening of an International Summit Conference under the auspices of the UN to consider this phenomenon and the means to combat it. Africa wants to make its full contribution by adopting its own Convention on this matter.

Fifthly, we note that the current trends in the World Economy do not augur well for Africa or for the great majority of developing countries.

Thus, despite the tremendous efforts invested by our countries to reorganise and restructure their economies at a very high social cost, our economies are increasingly facing a serious deterioration of the terms of trade, a decline in international development co-operation, a continuous fall in official development aid, an exacerbation of the external debt problem and the resurgence of protectionism on the part of the developed countries.

We, for our part, strongly believe that the promotion of economic co-operation and integration for the establishment of the African Economic Community as provided for under the Abuja Treaty will help consolidate the efforts being deployed by our countries to revive and develop their economies and to address the major problems facing Africa, notably problems of refugees and poverty, illiteracy and pandemics including the scourge of AIDS, as well as environmental problems, namely water and desertification related issues and threats to bio-diversity.

At the dawn of the Third Millennium, we the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the Organisation of African Unity

solemnly affirm our determination to fully assume our responsibilities to take up all these challenges. We recognise, however, that the solutions to these challenges depend, to a large extent, on the collective will and the pooling of efforts and resources of the entire International community.

In this connection, we call for a mutually beneficial and genuine international partnership; a partnership based on a balance of interests and mutual respect; a partnership, the most crucial and immediate ingredients of which are the genuine democratisation of international relations, the renewal of multilateralism and consolidation of its instruments, the reorganisation of international cooperation based on sustained inter-dependence and the decline in national egoism, and lastly the establishment of a security system designed and functioning with the participation and involvement of all nations.

While expressing satisfaction at the various co-operation initiatives and approaches in favour of Africa, we reaffirm our readiness and willingness to promote, with all our partners, a genuine partnership devoid of any selfish calculations for influence; a partnership that respects the unity of the continent and aims at the development of Africa, rather than using it as a mere reservoir of raw materials and market for manufactured goods; a partnership that enables Africa to achieve its integration, ensure its development for the benefit of its peoples and occupy its rightful place on the international scene for the mutual and inclusive benefit of the International Community as a whole.

Together, let us enter the Third Millennium with a genuine spirit of co-operation, with restored human dignity and a common hope in an interdependent future for mankind. In this process, Africa, which is prepared to be the master of its destiny, will shoulder its share of responsibility.

DECLARATION OF THE YEAR 2000 AS THE YEAR OF PEACE, SECURITY AND SOLIDARITY IN AFRICA

The Assembly,

1. **Recalling** the Final Communiqué of the 27th OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU which, inter alia, acknowledge the link between security, development and co-operation in Africa;

2. **Further Recalling** the Kampala Document which proposed the convening of a Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation in Africa (CSSDCA);

3. **Gravely concerned** about the proliferation of armed conflicts and crises and their devastating impact on the stability, as well as on the economic and social development of Member States;

4. **Recalling also** the establishment in 1993 in Cairo, of the OAU Mechanism for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflict Situations on the Continent;

5. **Noting** the efforts being deployed by the various sub-regional organizations and leaders to successfully and peacefully resolve existing conflicts;

6. **Determined** to develop a new consensus and a shared vision of the future;

7. **Declares** the year 2000 as the Year of Peace, Security and Solidarity in Africa and **INVITES** the Current OAU Chairman, all African Leaders and countries to rededicate themselves to effectively eliminate armed conflicts in Africa by the end of that year.

AHG/Dec.132 (XXXV) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Ministerial Conference on the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Decision of Council on the Draft OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism;

2. **ADOPTS** the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism;

3. **URGES** Member States to sign, and subsequently ratify, the Convention in order to ensure its speedy implementation;

4. **ENDORSES** the convening of an International Conference at Summit level under the auspices of the United Nations to elaborate on the international strategy needed to combat terrorism and identify the necessary international instruments required by the international community to eliminate the phenomenon of terrorism;

5. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the considerable progress so quickly made by the Government and People of Algeria in the restoration of peace and stability and **HAILS** the courageous initiative of H.E. President Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA to give concrete expression to these objectives and usher in permanent civil peace and harmony in Algeria.

AHG/Dec.133 (XXXV) **Decision on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights: Twelfth Annual Activity Report**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the 12th Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and commends the latter for the work accomplished during the past financial year;

2. **REQUESTS** the competent organs to continue to reflect over the possible ways and means of strengthening the operational capacity of the African Commission in order to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate;

3. **URGES** the States Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to fulfil their obligations under this important instrument and to lend all the necessary assistance to the African Commission for the effective accomplishment of its mission;

4. **AUTHORISES** the publication of the 12th Annual Activity Report in accordance with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

AHG/Dec. 134 (XXXV) **Decision on the Crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States and the United Kingdom**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. **EXPRESSES ITS SATISFACTION** over the courageous decision of the authorities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to encourage the two Libyan suspects to stand trial before the Scottish Court sitting in the Netherlands and over its positive response, and SUPPORTS the Jamahiriya's demand for adequate guarantees and conditions to ensure a just and fair trial for the two suspects;

3. **PAYS SPECIAL TRIBUTE** to former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, the custodian of the two holy Mosques, King Fahad IBN Abdelaziz, President Blaise Compaore, Out-going Chairman of the OAU and all the African leaders who have worked towards the implementation of the letter and spirit of the decision of the OAU Ouagadougou summit on the crisis;

4. **FURTHER EXPRESSES ITS SATISFACTION** at the efforts of the OAU Committee of Five and the Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States for their contributions in the search for a just solution to the crisis;

5. **COMMENDS** the African Group in New York for its role in resolving the crisis, and particularly for drawing the attention of the UN Secretary-General to the fact that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had co-operated and fulfilled the requirements of UN Security Council Resolutions 731 (1992) 748 (1992), 883 (1993), 1192 (1998);

6. **CALLS UPON** the United Nations Security Council to immediately and permanently lift the sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

7. **REQUESTS** the OAU Current Chairman to address letters to the UN Secretary-General and the Chairman of the UN Security Council to take appropriate measures to ensure the speedy and permanent lifting of sanctions;

8. **REQUESTS** the Committee of Five on the Dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United States of America and the United Kingdom to continue its work until the definitive resolution of the dispute;

9. **DECIDES** to remain seized of this matter and to act as appropriate.

10. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to follow-up the implementation of this decision.

AHG/Dec.135 (LXX) **Decision on the "First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of their Anti-Personnel Mines and on the Destruction"**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the relevant information contained in the Report of the Secretary-General on the "First Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stoekpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their destruction", held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 3 – 7 May, 1999;

2. **RECOGNIZES** that the issue of anti-personnel mines constitutes a major public health threat and a source of concern in the international political agenda, requiring a global approach in order to address the negative effects of these deadly devices;

3. **COMMENDS** the rapid entry-into-force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction;

4. **FURTHER RECOGNIZES** that the proliferation of anti-personnel mines constitutes an issue of insecurity which affects free circulation of people and goods in affected countries;

5. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** for the devastating effects of anti-personnel mines on human lives and their negative impact on the country's economic development;

6. **COMMENDS** all States Parties to the Convention;

7. **CALLS UPON** all countries which have not done so to sign and ratify the Convention;

8. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** for the outcome of the Maputo meeting;

9. **SUPPORTS FIRMLY** the objectives and purposes enshrined in the "Maputo Declaration";

10. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to continue to sensitize Member States to contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention.

AHG/Dec.136 (XXXV) **Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Conference of African Ministers of Education (COMEDAF I) and the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the Decade of Education in Africa**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Conference of African Ministers of Education (COMEDAF I) meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 15 to 19 March, 1999;

3. **TAKES NOTE** of the Programme of Action of the Decade of Education in Africa and of the Mechanism for its implementation, as well as the components thereof, as approved by the Conference of Ministers of Education;

4. **TAKES NOTE** of the Kampala Declaration and Framework of Action on the Empowerment of Women through Functional Literacy and the Education of the Girl Child;

5. **URGES** Member States to put in place all the necessary national structures as recommended in the report for the effective implementation of the Decade and the Harare Programme of Action;

6. **ALSO URGES** Member States to continue to give priority to education, more particularly basic education, as pillar of development and generator of human resources, in all their National Development Plans;

7. **INVITES** Member States as well as technical and financial partners to leave no stone unturned in monitoring, particularly at the national

level, the synergy of all the on-going initiatives on the continent, with a view to coordinating and harmonizing the various programmes;

8. **FURTHER URGES** the Regional Economic Communities to take the necessary steps to implement the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action in consultation with the OAU General Secretariat, the countries and the competent regional organizations;

9. **CALLS ON** the OAU Secretary-General to:

   a) put in place the Decade Secretariat;

   b) set up the Decade Steering Committee;

   c) release as early as possible the necessary resources for the launching of the Decade coordination activities;

   d) convene every two years the Conference of African Ministers of Education;

   e) convene in 2002, on the occasion of the mid-term review of the Decade, a Summit on Education.

10. **APPEALS** to African and International Agencies and Institutions, as well as NGOs and donor countries, to lend their technical and financial support to the implementation of the Decade Programme of Action both at national and continental levels.

AHG/Dec.137 (LXX) **Decison on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **ADOPTS** the proposals contained therein;

3. **HAILS** the Declaration on the moratorium on the import, export and manufacture of light weapons adopted in Abuja on 31 October, 1998 by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

4. **WELCOMES** the appeal contained in the said Declaration calling on the OAU to support implementation of the moratorium and to encourage similar initiatives in other regions of the continent

5. **WELCOMES ALSO** the initiatives being undertaken by Member States and regional organisations concerning the question of small arms, in particular, the ECOWAS moratorium on small arms, the destruction of surplus and obsolete small arms in South Africa and the destruction of illicit weapons in Mozambique;

6. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the work of the United Nations, through its Group of Experts on Small Arms and the draft Protocol on the Illicit Manufacturing, circulation and proliferation of as well as illicit trafficking in Firearms, Ammunitions and other related materials, supplementary to the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime; the European Union, through its Joint Action on Small Arms; and the Organisation of American States, through its Convention against the illicit manufacturing, trafficking, circulation and proliferation of firearms, ammunitions, explosives and other related Materials;

7. **APPEALS** to the International Community to render to the affected African countries all necessary assistance to enable them implement programmes to effectively deal with the problems associated with the proliferation of small arms and light weapons:

8. **REITERATES** the urgency and the need for inter-African co-operation in addressing the problems associated with the illicit use, transfer and manufacture of small arms and light weapons, and EMPASISES the primary role the OAU can play in co-ordinating actions in those affected areas;

9. **URGES** the Secretary-General to further seek the views of Member States on the illicit trafficking, circulation and proliferation of small

arms and light weapons, in particular, to seek their views on actions to be undertaken;

10. **CALLS** for a coordinated African approach to the problems posed by the illicit trafficking, circulation and proliferation of small arms, under the OAU, taking into account the regional experiences and activities in this matter;

11. **STRESSES** the impact of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of light weapons on the increased involvement of children as soldiers and the psycho-social trauma thereof and the need to comply with the African Charter for the Rights and Welfare of Children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

12. **FURTHER APPEALS** to all Member States and to the International Community to assist in the psycho-social rehabilitation of children who have been affected by the trafficking, circulation and the proliferation of light weapons;

13. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretariat to organize, to that effect, a ministerial preparatory conference on this matter, prior to the International Conference scheduled for the year 2001 and to seek the support of the relevant UN agencies and other actors concerned, so as to evolve an African common approach;

14. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to report on this issue to the next Session of the Council of Ministers.

AHG/Dec.138 (XXXV) **Decision on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made since its Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session in efforts to consolidate the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the appointment by the UN Secretary-General of a Director for the Centre;

3. **REAFFIRMS ITS UNWAVERING SUPPORT** for the revitalization of the Centre and underscores the need to provide it with the necessary resources to enable it to consolidate its activities and implement its programmes;

4. **FURTHER REAFFIRMS** the need to establish close collaboration between the Centre and the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution on the one hand, and, on the other, between the Centre and the sub-regional organizations working for peace, security and development;

5. **ONCE AGAIN INVITES** the General Secretariat to establish close cooperation with the Centre;

6. **URGES** Member States and the International Community to support the Centre by making financial contributions to it and assisting it in any other way likely to help in the promotion of its activities and effectiveness;

7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to report to its 36th Ordinary Session.

AHG/Dec. 139 (XXXV) **Decision on the ILO Convention on the Banning of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Immediate Action for their Elimination**

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1990, by the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;

2. **FURTHER RECALLS** the unanimous adoption in Geneva, Switzerland on 17 June, 1999 of the ILO Convention on the Prohibition of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Immediate Action for their Elimination, by the Eighty-seventh Ordinary Session of the International Labour Conference;

3. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the

Labour and Social Affairs Commission (Windhoek, Namibia: 22 – 23 April, 1999) pertaining to the proposed ILO Convention (Doc.LSC/9 (XXII);

4. **REQUESTS** all Member States to ratify the Convention as a matter of urgency preferably before the Thirty-sixth Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government scheduled to take place in the year 2000;

5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the International Labour Office (ILO) to provide Member States with necessary technical assistance to back their efforts towards ratification and implementation of this Convention.

AHG/Dec.140 (XXXV) **Decision on the Convening of an Extraordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in accordance with Article 33 (5) of its Rules of Procedure**

The Assembly:

Having heard the intervention of H.E. Col. Muamar Gaddafi, Leader of the Great First of September Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya during the discussion of the item on collective security and conflicts on the continent,

Having also heard his intervention on the convening of an Extraordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in the Jamahiriya, from 6 – 9 September, 1999 to discuss ways and means of making the OAU effective so as to keep pace with political and economic developments taking place in the world and the preparation required of Africa within the context of globalization so as to preserve its social, economic and political potentials:

DECIDES to accept the offer of H.E. Col. Muamar Gaddafi to host an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya at the afore-mentioned proposed date.

AHG/Dec.141 (XXXV) **Decision**

The Assembly :

1. **REAFFIRMS** the provisions of the OAU Charter;

2. **REAFFIRMS FURTHER** the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and in particular Article 13;

3. **RECALLS** the Universal Declaration on Democracy, adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 161st Session in Cairo, on 16 September 1997;

4. **RECALLS FURTHER** the spirit of the Harare Decision on unconstitutional remover of Governments;

5. **RECOGNISES** that the principles of good governance, transparency and human rights are essential elements for building representative and stable government and contribute to conflict prevention.

AHG/Dec.142 (XXXV) **Decision**

The Assembly:

Determined to promote strong and democratic institutions that will safeguard the principles mentioned in the decision above,

1. **DECIDES** that Member States whose Governments came to power through unconstitutional means after the Harare Summit, should restore constitutional legality before the next Summit;

2. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to be actively seized of developments in those countries and to assist in programmes intended to return such countries to constitutional and democratic governments;

3. **CALLS UPON** the OAU Secretary-General to report to the Ordinary Sessions of the Council of Ministers and the Thirty-sixth Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the progress made in this regard.

DECISION

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government,

Considering the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity,

Considering the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, especially Articles 7,8,9 and 10 thereof,

Considering further the Protocol on the Relations between the African Economic Communities and the Regional Economic Communities,

Having considered the report of the Council of Ministers and the recommendations of the Third Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) held in Addis Ababa on 17 June 1999,

Expressing satisfaction at the positive developments regarding the revitalisation of ECCAS,

DECIDES:

1. REGULATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Regulations CM/AEC/Regl.1 (IV), CM/OAU/AEC/Regl. 1(V) and CM/OAU/AEC/Regl.2 (V) of the Council of Ministers are hereby approved.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AEC TREATY

a) Note is taken of the end of the first stage of implementation of the AEC as provided for under the Abuja Treaty and Member States should intensify their efforts towards strengthening the existing RECs to which they belong;

b) Each REC is to submit to its policy organs an assessment of the progress made during the first stage, and inform ECOSOC of any additional requirements to be met

for complying with the conditions needed to complete the first phase;

c) The RECs should submit to the Fourth Session of ECOSOC their respective programmes for implementing the second phase and a progress report thereon, as well as prospects and constraints;

d) The RECs, within the framework of the Specialised Technical Committees, should establish benchmarks for each sector to enhance assessment of the progress of integration, and regularly provide the OAU/AEC Secretariat with their sectoral work programmes in order to facilitate programme co-ordination and harmonisation;

e) The Chairman of each REC is to submit a report to the Assembly on the progress made in the implementation of the AEC Treaty;

f) To reaffirm their commitment under the AEC Treaty, especially those regarding the implementation of the legally binding Decisions of the AEC Summit, all Member States are to set up the requisite national modalities and machinery to facilitate the incorporation of AEC decisions in their national legislation.

3. RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY

All Member States concerned are to take appropriate measures to ratify or accede to the AEC Treaty;

4. BUDGET OF THE COMMUNITY

The Committee on Co-ordination, under Article 6 of the Protocol on Relations between the AEC and the RECs, should give priority to the preparation of the AEC budget, and the Secretariat is to intensify its efforts at mobilising extra-budgetary resources;

5. OAU-EU SUMMIT

Support is reiterated for the holding of the proposed Summit with the EU and while requesting the OAU Preparatory Committee to continue to overview the contacts with the EU, mandate is given to a Core Group of that Committee to undertake consultations with the relevant EU Group with a view to clearing all obstacles and determining the best ways and means for the convening of the Summit.

Done in Algiers, Algeria on 14 July, 1999